

The Arizona Children's Executive Committee

Spring 2008

ACEC PARTICIPANTS

State Agencies

Administrative Office of the Court (AOC)

Arizona Department of Education (ADE)

Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD)

Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Children, Youth and Families (DES/DCYF)

Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS)

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

Tribal & Regional Behavioral Health Authorities Cenpatico

Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA)

Gila River Indian Community

Magellan

Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA)

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

White Mountain Apache Tribe

Family Agencies & Parents

Family Involvement Center (FIC)

Mentally Ill Kids in Distress (MIKID)

Others

Arizona Center For Law in the Public Interest

Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC)

Children's Action Alliance

Family Members

Bringing together Arizona's child-serving agencies to collectively create & support an integrated system of care built on the Arizona Vision and 12 Principles

The Arizona Vision

In collaboration with the child, family and others, Arizona will provide accessible behavioral health services designed to aid children to achieve success in school, live with their families, avoid delinquency, and become stable and productive adults.

Services will be tailored to the child and family and provided in the most appropriate setting, in a timely fashion and in accordance with best practices, while respecting the child's family's cultural heritage.

The History of the Arizona Children's Executive Committee

The Arizona Children's Executive Committee (ACEC) was formed in 2002 in response to the Jason K. Settlement Agreement. The committee brings together multiple state agencies, government entities, community advocacy organizations, and parents of children/youth with behavioral health needs to collectively ensure that behavioral health services are being provided to children and families according to the Arizona Vision and 12 Principles

ACEC strives to create and implement a successful system of behavioral health care in Arizona by serving as a state-level link for local, county, tribal and regional teams.

ACEC representatives work together to support the development and strengthening of local systems of care. To ensure the voice of the committee is heard at multiple levels, ACEC representatives are asked to share committee recommendations and updates with the senior leadership at each of their respective agencies.

Information on the Jason K. Settlement Agreement and the Arizona Vision can be found at:
<http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/jk.htm>

HIGHLIGHTING OUR SUCCESSES

Strengthening Families and their Role with Schools

The Family Involvement Subcommittee of ACEC is dedicated to increasing family participation in child serving agencies. In April 2008, the committee organized a special education training and consultation session broadcasted through an internet-based teleconferencing system. Use of teleconferencing made it possible to reach families across Arizona. In total, 17 families in Phoenix, Yuma and Tucson participated in the session. Two trainers/consultants provided an overview of handouts about special education and then the session proceeded to a question and answer session.

Each parent was given an opportunity to ask any question or raise any concern that they had about the challenges their child was having at school and then received advice on how to request services or changes in their child's education plan. The Family Involvement Subcommittee is pleased with the success of this first session for families. Both the training format as well as the method of training over the internet appears to be a successful approach. The committee plans to sponsor up to 4 more sessions in 2008, including day, night, and weekend sessions, and also sessions for Spanish-speaking families.



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE ACEC?

Improved Communication

Increase community awareness of ACEC activities

Enhance the information flow among the ACEC, State agency directors and local councils/community groups to improve systems' effectiveness



Eliminate Barriers to Care

Train and educate clinical staff across systems to better understand and treat "specialty populations"

Establish a process to discuss specific concerns in an effort to identify system barriers to effective behavioral health services for children

Education/Schools

Design and implement a curriculum for educating the school system about Child and Family Teams (CFTs) and the role of educators on CFTs

Design and implement a curriculum targeted at educating families with children with behavioral health needs about the educational system and its role in their child's life

Design and implement a curriculum targeted at educating the behavioral health system about educational processes and the role of educators on CFT's

ACEC SUBCOMMITTEES

Family Involvement

Adolescent Substance Abuse

Clinical

Training

HIGHLIGHTED SUBCOMMITTEE: Training

The Training Subcommittee is comprised of members from family organizations & various levels of the behavioral health, education, child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This group was assigned the task of developing a systematic process to ensure that Child and

Family Teams (CFTs) are addressing the education of children with behavioral health needs in a meaningful way, state-wide. Toward this end, the subcommittee developed a work plan that would outline the components for designing and implementing a curriculum targeted at educating

the behavioral health system about educational processes and the role of educators on CFTs. Once completed, the subcommittee will develop a similar curriculum for educating the school system. Group members see the benefit of sharing this curriculum with other state systems and are addressing ways to expand the scope for designing and implementing the components of this curriculum.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE NEWS FROM ACEC

Future newsletters will include:

Spotlight on the work of each subcommittee

Training opportunities for families and professionals

Links to community resources

